

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's Statement might imply that the dependent claims are only allowable because they depend from allowed independent claims. However, the Examiner's Statement does not discuss the other elements of the claimed subject matter, in particular, those additional elements recited in the dependent claims which may render the dependent claims independently allowable in view of the specification, prosecution file history and/or the documents made of record, either alone or in combination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's Statement may present only some of the reasons for allowance of the claims, and that other reasons may also exist for allowing the claims such as, for example, those set forth more completely in the record as a whole. This interpretation is consistent with M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, which states that any statement of reasons for allowance "[i]s not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state all the reasons for allowance are set forth." M.P.E.P. § 1302.14.


Finally, Applicants agree with the Examiner that claims 13-18 and 25-39 are allowable in view of all of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination. However, Applicants do not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. In closing, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

If the Examiner has questions, or if Applicants can be of assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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